new blocks. Where already small allocations are there, those allocations are being cut and because of e-auctioning or whatever other ways, on higher bidding, it has been given to some other people. With the result, the small scale industries are suffering. They are not getting even the allocated coal which they were getting earlier. This is become a problem. Now, we know that, through e-auctioning business, Coal India can generate some more funds. That is different. Would you please see to it that, through this practice, some other practices are not crept in affecting the small scale industry where allocations are already there? Why should that be cut?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: The whole industry is based on that allocation. All of a sudden, if you cut that allocation, if you reduce that allocation, the small industry will suffer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. He has taken note of your question.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: So many people are suffering. Would you kindly look into the policies of the power sector on this issue?

DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Sir, I have taken note of it.

Financial Assistance to Karnataka

*485. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sought financial assistance from the Centre to set up an Earth Station and an Incubation Centre in Gulbarga and Belgaum; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the Centre' reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government of Karnataka has approached Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Bangalore, to set up new STPI Centres with Earth Station and incubation facilities at Gulbarga and Belgaum in

Karnataka. In order to set up a new STPI Centre, the State Government has to make available 3 acres of land, 10,000 sq. ft. of built up space and a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1 Crore to STPI. Department of Information Technology, Government of India also provides seed money of Rs. 50 lakhs to STPI. A feasibility study has to be conducted by STPI jointly with the State Government to evaluate a proposal received under this policy.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, the Government of India has not taken seriously the proposal sent by the Government of Karnataka. The Government of Karnataka has promised and assured that five acres of land will be made available and Rs. 1 crore will also be provided. This assurance has gone to the Government of India. In fact, they wanted only three acres of land. In spite of that , now they say that survey will be conducted. By which time will the survey be conducted and by which time will the project be completed?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : Sir, through you, I would like to answer the question of hon. Member. The Government of Karnataka has asked us for setting up STPs in the places mentioned. There are already five centres in Karnataka. In fact, right now, the STPI is doing a feasibility study. The feasibility study is basically to identify the place, the required human resources, the industrial infrastructure, the IT infrastructure and the business environment, as also to ensure that there is a good business climate. In Karnataka, the primary and secondary cities are already being covered. I think the hon. Member know that Bangalore is number one in the country and is doing extremely good. In fact, it has got an export turnover of Rs. 22,167 crores in 2004-05. In Mysore, they have done export of Rs. 273 crores. In Manglore, Manipal, they have done export of Rs. 559 crores and at the Sub-Centre, Hubli, they have done export of only Rs. 1.27 crores. But there is still some scope. They still have to improve. We are conducting the feasibility study. The moment the feasibility study is over, we will definitely get back to you.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, a proposal was sent for Belgaum and Gulbarga. These are important centres in the northern part of Karnataka. Already, there is a demand for separate State in this part of the State. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government would take it very seriously. What would be its total cost? The Minister has stated in his answer that Rs. 50 lakhs would be provided to them. What will be the

total cost of the project when the State Government has promised to give grant-in-aid to the extent of Rs. 1 crore for each place?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : Sir, it is the basic norm for every State Government. It is not particularly for Karnataka. If any State Government wishes to have a STPI centre in its State, they have to give a grant-in-aid of, at least, Rs. 1 crore, three acres of land and also built up space of 10,000 square feet. Once they fulfil this demand, we will give Rs. 50 lakhs. This Rs. 50 lakhs is used for equipments because communication equipments are needed for ISP data transfer and if need be, for setting up of satellite receivers for ISP data. We are studying it. We are doing the feasibility study. It is not that we are ignoring any particular State. Karnataka is a precious State for us when it comes to IT.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : I have read the reply of the hon. Minister. There is a larger issue of starting Software Technology Parks. Sir, Software Technology Parks are there in Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore. They are concentrated in this area But when some of the northern States want to start Software Technology Parks, there should be some support from the Ministry of Communications, apart from the required infrastructure which the State creates. Apart from giving technical support and infrastructure which is required, what is the Ministry of Communications going to do for those states which need to set up Software Technology Parks in the northern part of the country?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN : Sir, the hon. Member is right in saying that development is taking place mostly in the southern States and progressive States in the country. *(Interruptions)*. I mean the States which are more progressive towards IT. Sir, if you see the IT history, the success of IT is due to the participation of the private sector In fact, the Government did little when the IT's private people really came and started the business. They are the one who have taken IT to this level. It also depends upon the private participation. But the Government cannot force them. Probably, what we can do is, we can just take the horse to the water. This is what the Government can do. It also depends upon the English-speaking skilled workforce which is needed to do business with other countries of the world. It has to come from the State Governments. Until and unless, it comes from the State Government, the Central Government cannot do it.

*486[The questioners [Shri Moolchand Meena, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy] were absent. For answer *vide* page 33 infra.]